

Top Secret



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Libya: The "Libya First" faction in the ruling Revolutionary Command Council has wrung at least a temporary concession from the pro-Egyptian group.

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[redacted] all the Libyan troops stationed in Egypt since January have either been brought home or soon will be. Their return would signify a concession to the "Libya First" faction led by Cyrenaican Governor Kharubi, who opposes council chairman Qaddafi's policy of close military and economic cooperation with Egypt. It also indicates how unpopular this policy is in Libya, which has encouraged the "Libya First" faction to advise a modification of this policy to stem the growth of antiregime sentiments in the country. These sentiments are strongest in Cyrenaica where proximity to Egypt has resulted in traditional suspicion of Cairo's intentions.

The return of the troops might help to hold the council together but might not be enough to prevent plotting outside the council. Resentment caused by the presence of significant numbers of Egyptian military and civilian personnel in Libya continues.

The return of the Libyan troops would not mean, however, that Libya will modify its strong Arab-nationalist, anti-Israeli, and anti-Western diplomatic and propaganda policies.

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